

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-05 IO-13 ACDA-07 /084 W
-----010207 010246Z /70/144

R 301644Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5495
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 07021

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 4

E.O.11652; GDS
TAGS; PGOV, PINS, PINT, GE
SUBJECT; GDR EXPELS FIVE IMPRISONED DISSIDENTS;
- MORE ON THE BAHRO CASE

REF: A) BERLIN 6984, B) BERLIN A-74, C) BERLIN 5779,
D) USBER 1026

1. THE GDR EXPELLED TO THE WEST FIVE IMPRISONED
DISSIDENTS OVER THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 27-28.
THE FIVE ARE HELLMUTH NITSCHKE, A PROFESSOR OF GERMAN;
KARL-HEINZ NITSCHKE, A DOCTOR; JUERGEN FUCHS, A WRITER;
GERULF PANNACH, A SINGER; AND CHRISTIAN KUNERT, A
MUSICIAN. NITSCHKE'S WIFE HAD BEEN RELEASED AND SENT
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TO THE WEST EARLIER.

2. NITSCHKE AND HIS WIFE WERE ARRESTED IN APRIL OF
THIS YEAR AFTER SENDING A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE GDR
(REFS C AND D). HE HAD ALSO APPLIED TO EMIGRATE TO
THE WEST. NITSCHKE HAD ALSO UNSUCCESSFULLY APPLIED TO

LEAVE THE GDR, AND SIGNED A PETITION CALLING FOR THE FULL ATTAINMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ACCORD WITH THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION AND THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. HE SENT A COPY OF THIS PETITION TO THE UN AND TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND WAS ARRESTED IN AUGUST 1976.

3. FUCHS, PANNACH, AND KUNERT WERE ALL SIGNERS OF THE BIERMANN PETITION AND WERE IMPRISONED WITHOUT CHARGE SINCE THE FALL OF 1976. THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION IS THAT LAWYER WOLFGANG VOGEL MAY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN OBTAINING THESE RELEASES (SEE BERLIN A-74). NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OR EXPLANATION FOR THE RELEASES HAS BEEN MADE BY THE GDR. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE HOUSE ARREST OF PROFESSOR ROBERT HAVEMANN HAS BEEN TIGHTENED.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER APPARENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RUDOLF BAHRO CASE ALTHOUGH THE WEST GERMAN MEDIA (INCLUDING TV) CONTINUES TO COVER THE STORY IN BOTH ITS REPORTING AND COMMENTARIES. THE CURRENT ISSUE OF DER SPIEGEL REPORTS THAT THE DECISION TO ARREST BAHRO WAS MADE AT THE REGULAR TUESDAY MEETING (AUG. 23) OF THE SED POLITBURO THE DAY AFTER THE OFFENDING ISSUE OF SPIEGEL APPEARED. THE ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT BAHRO HIMSELF ANTICIPATED AND WELCOMED THE OFFICIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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REACTION AND QUOTES HIM AS SAYING, "FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MY BOOK IT WOULD BE BEST IF THEY WOULD ARREST ME." HOWEVER, SPIEGEL ALSO PROFESSES PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY THE GDR DID NOT MOVE AGAINST BAHRO SOONER SINCE HIS WRITINGS HAD BEEN KNOWN TO THE AUTHORITIES FOR SOME TIME.

5. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY AN EAST GERMAN SOURCE THAT BAHRO HAS BEEN CHARGED UNDER A STATUTE WHICH FORBIDS PERSONS IN "SECURITY SENSITIVE" POSITIONS FROM HAVING CONTACTS WITH PERSONS IN THE WEST. THE GDR DEFINITION OF "SECURITY SENSITIVE" IS EXTREMELY BROAD AND COULD INCLUDE EVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS. THIS LAW HAS NOT BEEN STRICTLY ENFORCED FOR SOME TIME, BUT THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY RECEIVED SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE BAHRO ARREST HAS SPARKED CONCERN AMONG SOME EAST GERMANS THAT THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH WESTERN CONTACTS MAY NOW GET THEM INTO TROUBLE. HOW FAR THIS MAY DEVELOP REMAINS TO BE SEEN. AT THE SAME TIME, THE RELEASE OF PANNACH, NITSCHKE AND THE OTHERS MAY BE MEANT AS A REGIME SIGN THAT IT DOES NOT AT PRESENT ANYWAY INTEND TO EMBARK ON A MAJOR CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENT

ELEMENTS. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, GC, (NITSCHKE, HELLMUTH), (NITSCHKE, KARL-HEINZ), (FUCHS, JUERGEN), (PANNACH, GERULF), (KUNERT, CHRISTIAN)
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